



# 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.

Bowling at Heber Springs Oct 24<sup>th</sup>, 4pm

Base Christmas dinner at the USS Razorback will be on Saturday, December 12th.

*October 2009*

## Commander's Corner

Another convention as come and gone. All reports that everything went fine and no major announcements to report that I know of. Congratulations to Greg Stitz and Billy Halloway for receiving special national awards. Next convention will be held in Cincinnati 30 August to September 6 2010. Those who are interest and would like to fly you will need to fly into Covington KY (CVG).

For the past several years there has been concerned 'chatter' about the rising costs of our Annual Conventions. Due to the size of our gatherings, it is very difficult to find locations that can handle our size convention that is not expensive. One proposal is to have a national convention every other year on the same schedule with the USSVI national election, rotating each convention by

region. This would allow subvet families to participate in other vacations on the off year, and would save your organization over \$10,000 in direct costs saved in the off year. Please visit the online poll at [www.ussvi.org](http://www.ussvi.org) and express your opinion. (Upper left corner)

Formal  
Decommissioning Ceremony of the Diamond Chapter WWII Submarine Veterans on October 10, 2009, 1800 Hours Clarion Hotel, Bentonville, Arkansas go to the Bases website for more details.

Dinner to Honor Ray Wewers will be held on Saturday, October 17th at AIMM at 6 p.m. for a dinner in honor of Ray Wewer's election to District Commander. Please call John Barr ASAP to confirm a place at the table.

I am sure most of you have heard the Chairman of the Joints Chiefs has made a recommendation to allow woman on submarines. Now there is a subject that you can chew some fat over.

Next business meeting will be 20 November moved up one week due to Thanksgiving.

Hope all is well with all.

**Paul Honeck**  
**Base Commander**



# HAPPY HALLOWEEN

## Submarines Lost/Damaged During the Month of October

[USS O-5 \(SS-66\)](#) **11-Oct-1923**. Two men lost.

[USS S-44 \(SS-155\)](#) **7-Oct-1943**. 56 men lost and two taken as POW. Both survived the war.

[USS Wahoo \(SS-238\)](#) **11-Oct-1943**. All hands lost (79).

[USS Dorado \(SS-248\)](#) **12-Oct-1943**. All hands lost (78).

[USS Escolar \(SS-294\)](#) **17-Oct-1944**. All hands lost (82).

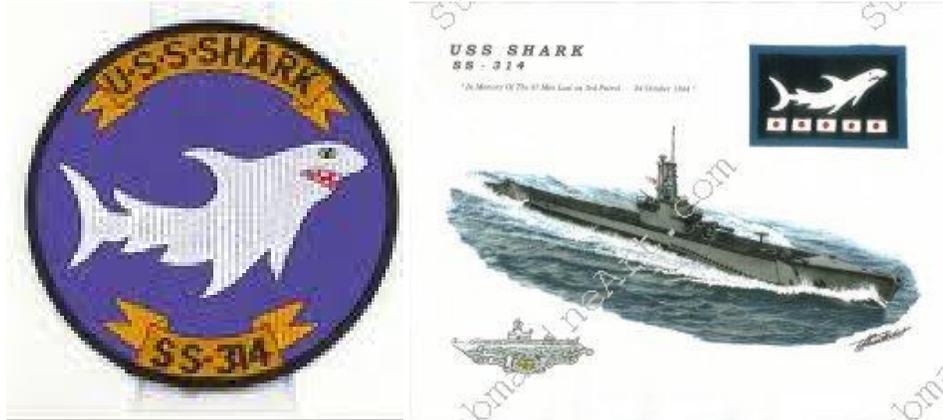
[USS Shark II \(SS-314\)](#) **24-Oct-1944**. All hands lost (90).

[USS Seawolf \(SS-197\)](#) **3-Oct-1944**. All hands lost (102).

[USS Tang \(SS 306\)](#) **24-Oct-1944**. 78 men lost. 9 taken POW and survived the war. CDR Richard O'Kane was awarded the Medal of Honor for his leadership and heroism as CO.

[USS Darter \(SS-227\)](#) **24-Oct-1944**. All the crew was rescued by USS Dace.

### **USS SHARK II (SS-314) October 24, 1944 – 90 Men Lost**



*\*Second in World War II--A very early submarine (SS-8) carried the name Shark part of her life.*

Joining Seadragon and Blackfish at Pearl Harbor, the second *Shark* (Commander E.N. Blakely) left that place on 23 September 1944, and proceeded to Saipan to begin her third war patrol. The three vessels left the latter island on 3 October to conduct a coordinated patrol in the vicinity of Luzon Strait. Commander Blakely had command of this coordinated attack group, called Blakely's Behemoths.

On 22 October, *Shark* reported having contacted four large enemy vessels in Latitude 20°-28'N, Longitude 117°-50'E. She still had her full load of torpedoes aboard, so had not made an attack. *Shark* addressed no further messages to bases, but on 24 October, Seadragon received a message from her stating that she had made radar contact with a single freighter, and that she was going in to attack. This was the last message received from *Shark*.

However, on 13 November 1944, a dispatch originated by Commander Naval Unit, Fourteenth Air Force, stated that a Japanese ship enroute from Manila to Japan with 1800 American prisoners of war had been sunk on 24 October by an American submarine in a torpedo attack. No other submarine reported the attack, and since *Shark* had given Seadragon a contact report only a few hours before the sinking, and could not be raised by radio after it, it can only be assumed that *Shark* made the attack described, and perished during or after it. Five prisoners who survived and subsequently reached China stated that conditions on the prison ship were so intolerable that the prisoners prayed for deliverance from their misery by a torpedo or bomb. Because many prisoners of war had been rescued from the water by submarines after sinking vessels in which they were being transported, U.S. submarines had been instructed to search for Allied survivors in the vicinity of all sinkings of Empire-bound Japanese ships. *Shark* may well have been sunk trying to rescue American prisoners of war. All attempts to contact *Shark* by radio failed and on 27 November she was reported as presumed lost.

A report from the Japanese received after the close of war on antisubmarine attacks records the attack made by *Shark* on 24 October 1944, in Latitude 20°-41'N, Longitude 118°-27'E. Depth charges were dropped 17 times, and the enemy reports having seen "bubbles, and heavy oil, clothes, cork, etc." Several American submarines report having been attacked on this date near the position given, but in view of the fact that none reported the attack on the convoy cited above, this attack is considered the most probable cause of *Shark's* loss.

*Shark* sank five ships, totaling 32,200 tons and damaged two, for 9,900 tons prior to her last patrol. Her first patrol was in the area west of the Marianas. *Shark* sank two freighters, a transport and a large tanker, and damaged a freighter. In her second patrol in the Bonins, *Shark* sank a medium freighter.

**"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

### Join the Fun Activities

Want to remind you of the three activities for the rest of this year.

The dinner at AIMM on Saturday, October 17th will honor Ray Wewers, among other things. We will have a great BBQ meal. Contact me for additional information at 501-663-6622 or [jcbarr@aristotle.net](mailto:jcbarr@aristotle.net). I need your response at least a week before the event.

On Saturday, October 24th we will meet at Big Al Malone's bowling alley in Heber Springs at 4 p.m. For only \$8 you will receive a drink, eat pizza and bowl. I am still looking for a challenge match. Again, contact me for additional information at 501-663-6622 or [jcbarr@aristotle.net](mailto:jcbarr@aristotle.net). Let me know if you can come at least a week in advance of the activity.

Our annual Christmas dinner will be at AIMM at 4 p.m. on Saturday, December 12th. I will put out more information about this affair come mid-November. Just want you to reserve a spot on your calendar.

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### Join the Rush - Pay Your Dues

Dues are payable before the end of the year. If you owe dues, you would have received a letter from me listing the amount. There were only about 88 people that owed dues. I think about four of you will qualify for Holland Club next year, so you would not have received a letter.

I sincerely appreciate your promptness in paying your dues. This leaves more time for me on the golf course during this pretty weather, instead of sitting at this computer bugging you about your dues.

Thanks!

John C. Barr  
Membership Chair

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

### FROM THE STOREKEEPER

2010 USSVI Calendars have arrived. The theme of these calendars is "The War Fighters" and feature some great photographs of our submarines during World War II. Because calendar sales have fluctuated so much over the past three years, I ordered only thirty (30). For that

reason, two (2) calendars per customer on initial orders until November 15, 2009. If necessary, hopefully we can place a second order if sales are strong. Calendars are priced at \$ 12.00 each or two (2) for \$ 22.00 including mailing to U.S. locations. Contact Billy Hollaway at [retldoun@earthlink.net](mailto:retldoun@earthlink.net) or (501) 519-4848 to place your order.

Bill Hollaway

[retldoun@earthlink.net](mailto:retldoun@earthlink.net)

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

### From the Chaplain

Our condolences to Sue and Jim Barnes.

Just to let you know that Sue's mom passed away about 2:15 PM today, Friday Oct. 2. The funeral will be on Tuesday, October 6 in Sheridan, AR at Memorial Gardens Funeral Home, at 10:00AM. Visitation will be Monday night 6-8 PM.

Thanks,  
Jim

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### Capt. Leonce Lajaunie

Sad news of Capt. Lajaunie's passing. He was CO of the Razorback in 1944-45.

The following is an obituary posted at the Naval Academy.

21 September 2009

Thurs., Sept. 24, 2009 5:47:59 AM

Obituary: Leonce A. Lajaunie '37

24Sep09 - LEONCE ARNOLD

LAJAUNIE, JR. Captain US Navy (Ret.) United States Naval Academy Class of 1937 On Friday, September 18, 2009, of Silver Spring, MD.

Beloved husband of Jean H. Lajaunie, father of Jo Ann Berndt (Allen) and David Lajaunie. Also survived by other loving family and friends.

Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 12 noon on Saturday, September 26 at the Church of the Resurrection at Riderwood Village , 3110 Gracefield Road , Silver Spring , MD. Private interment at the United States Naval Academy Cemetery , Annapolis , MD. In lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory may be made to the United States Naval Academy Foundation, 291 Wood Rd, Beach Hall, Annapolis, MD 21402. (Attn: Tribute Gifts)

[www.COLLINSFUNERALHOME.com](http://www.COLLINSFUNERALHOME.com)

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### 50 YEAR CELEBRATION!

Everyone in the Razorback Base is invited to join Jim and Sue Barnes celebrate 50 years of marriage. Location is Oak Grove Baptist Church, 2907 Congo Rd., Benton, AR 72019

Time 1400-1600

Date 25 October 2009

No gifts please

Directions: Take Exit 118 (Congo Road) off I-30 go under overpass bear right to stop light, turn left, church will be on right. Phone 501-778-6583 or 501-317-9589

### Congratulations!

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

### AIMMS NEWS



### Spend the Night Aboard the Historic Submarine USS Razorback

The Arkansas Inland Maritime Museum is pleased to announce the beginning of our overnight program. This program is open to groups such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Church groups and other organizations.

A night aboard the historic submarine USS Razorback includes a personalized, guided tour of the submarine as well as other activities. Groups will see parts of the submarine normally closed to the public and they will sleep in refurbished bunks in the tight crew's quarters, experiencing the close quarters, sounds, smells and lack of privacy endured by the sailors who once lived aboard the submarine. Evening activities can include educational programs or just watching a movie aboard the submarine, just like the crew did.

The cost is \$30 per person. Min group size is 10 and the max group size is 35. Dinner is not included, but breakfast will be

provided. Reservations can be made for Friday or Saturday night and groups will have exclusive access to the facility for the night.

For information, visit <http://www.aimm.museum/overnight.asp>

Greg Stitz - Curator  
Arkansas Inland Maritime Museum  
[www.aimm.museum](http://www.aimm.museum)  
Home of USS Razorback (SS-394)  
501-371-8320

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

### **Navy News**

#### **USSR ALFA CLASS**

Years ago I read a fine article in a classified publication on how U.S. intelligence had gathered information regarding the Soviet ALFA class submarine. I've just noticed that it has now been declassified and is available at:

<https://www.cia.gov/library/center-for-the-study-of-intelligence/csi-publications/csi-studies/studies/vol52no3/index.html>

Submitted by  
Greg Stitz

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



#### **Navy Set to Crew Subs with Female Sailors**

by Christian Lowe, Military.com,  
September 25, 2009

Breaking with a tradition that spans more than half a century, the Navy is in the final planning stages to integrate female Sailors into its submarine fleet.

Long considered one of the most elite communities in the U.S. Navy, the small, secretive force has been comprised entirely of male officers and crew in large part because of the small living spaces and long endurance missions.

The service had examined assigning a small number of females on subs over the last ten years, but found the tight confines and lack of a well-defined career path for female submariners too daunting to change. Until now.

"Having commanded a mixed gender surface combatant, I am very comfortable addressing integrating women into the submarine force," said Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead in a statement to Military.com. "I am familiar with the issues as well as the value of diverse crews."

"This has had and will continue to have my personal attention as we work toward increasing the diversity of our Navy afloat and ashore," he added.

According to a senior commander in the Navy's submarine fleet who spoke to Military.com on condition of anonymity, incoming Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus has charged the service with overcoming past objections and assigning females to subs – breaking down one of the last barriers in the service to female assignments.

"We have now received a signal from the secretary of the Navy that he's ready to move out on this. We have never had that signal before," the senior sub commander said. "So now it's time to do some detailed planning to ensure that this is executable."

The official said the submarine fleet would likely not see female crewmembers for at least two years, but he said it was a change whose time had come.

"There is no job on a submarine that a woman can't do," the official said during a Sept. 25 phone interview. "We have a vast pool of very talented young women out there who want to serve on submarines."

The official agreed to speak with Military.com after reports indicated that Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman – and former Chief of Naval Operations – Adm. Mike Mullen told lawmakers he was pushing the service to lift the ban on women in the so-called "silent service."

One of the biggest obstacles to the integration is technical – how can the Navy make accommodations on such small vessels for female crew, such as separate heads and bunks? The

official said integrating females into the ballistic missile submarine fleet would be less of a challenge than on the attack sub fleet, where he said "we really don't have much room to store the toilet paper much less make up a new bathroom" for female crew.

It's likely that the first female submariners will be officers and that they will be assigned to the larger, ballistic missile submarines, or "boomers." The officer accommodations on subs include two- and three-man staterooms and a shared head that could easily be made unisex, the official said.

"The plan for officers involves no physical changes to the ships," the official said, adding that rough estimates of changes for enlisted crew on ballistic missile subs and cruise missile subs run below \$10 million per ship.

The official estimates assigning as many as five female officers per sub.

With the enlisted cadre, it's a much more difficult proposition. Not only is there the amount of physical space to consider, but also the career paths and non-commissioned officer leadership to build, the official said. Navy officials agree that females must be at least 20 percent of the sub's crew – meaning 20 women on an attack sub, for example – so that the women don't feel isolated and have "mutual support" from Sailors of the same gender.

Sub fleet leaders also want to make sure there are enough qualified chief petty officers to lead and mentor those female crewmembers.

"Eventually [the Navy] will need to retain enough of the women coming in so that they can eventually provide that leadership," the Navy official said. "We need to have a program and a plan in place that is self-sustaining [and] not always dependent on the surface fleet to get petty officers and officers."

But perhaps the biggest challenge to integrating women into the submarine fleet is cultural.

For decades a male-dominated community whose long-endurance missions and distance from logistical support make living and working on a submarine a sometimes dirty job with little privacy (attack submarine crew share bunks when not on duty), the idea of placing women in

such close confines worries both veteran submariners and spouses who fear distraction from the job or infidelity.

"The idea is likely to be unpopular with some traditionalist submariners, who long have believed that the lack of any physical and mental privacy whatsoever and the claustrophobic confines make the idea unworkable," said Joe Buff, a noted expert on submarine warfare, novelist, and Military.com contributor.

"Some wives of submariners have also expressed concern over fraternization, which has at times been an issue in the surface Navy and on diesel subs of other nations that have had co-ed crews." No matter the rumblings within the fleet and from vets and spouses, SecNav Mabus told Military.com in a statement his service is "moving out aggressively on this."

"I believe women should have every opportunity to serve at sea, and that includes aboard submarines," he added.

--Wear your Dolphins - you earned them!--  
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## NEWS THAT DIDN'T MAKE THE NEWS!

### Probe Targets Archives' Handling of Data on 70 Million Vets

By Ryan Singel, October 1, 2009

The inspector general of the National Archives and Records Administration is investigating a potential data breach of tens of millions of records about U.S. military veterans, after the agency sent a defective hard drive back to its vendor for repair and recycling without first destroying the data.

At issue is a hard drive that helped power eVetRecs, the system veterans use to request copies of their health records and discharge papers. When the drive failed in November of last year, the agency returned the drive to GMRI, the contractor that sold it to them, for repair. GMRI determined it couldn't be fixed, and ultimately passed it to another firm to be recycled.

The incident was reported to NARA's inspector general by Hank Bellomy, a NARA IT manager, who charges that the move put 70 million veterans at risk of identity theft, and that NARA's practice of returning hard drives unsanitized was symptomatic of an irresponsible

security mindset unbecoming to America's record-keeping agency.

"This is the single largest release of personally identifiable information by the government ever," Bellomy told Wired.com. "When the USDA did the same thing, they provided credit monitoring for all their employees. We leaked 70 million records, and no one has heard a word of it."

But NARA says the lost drive is not a problem because its contractors signed privacy promises in their contracts, though the agency has since changed its policy to require that sensitive media be destroyed by NARA itself.

The drive was part of a RAID array of six drives containing an Oracle database that held detailed records on 76 million veterans, including millions of Social Security numbers dating to 1972, when the military began using individuals' Social Security numbers as their service numbers.

When the drive failed, Bellomy says he tried to subvert the long-standing recycling policy by hiding the drive in his safe. But it was taken out of his control when he was put on long-term leave. Under the conditions of the maintenance contract, if NARA did not return the drive, then GMRI would have billed the agency \$2,000 for a replacement.

He adds that more drives failed after the November incident, and that he performed a forensic scan on them to prove that they were full of sensitive data.

"I said you can't turn them back in. The data is Privacy Act — it's against the law," Bellomy told Wired.com. "We have no clue how many drives have been sent back over the past seven years since this system was in place. I am a government employee and I'm a veteran, and just this year had both my credit cards replaced because they were compromised."

But NARA says that while it no longer will send back drives, no rules were broken, and that warning veterans would cause unnecessary fear.

READ the rest of the story at: <http://www.wired.com/threatlevel/2009/10/probe-targets-archives-handling-of-data-on-70-million-vets/>

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



## October Birthdays

Oct 1<sup>st</sup> – Jim Barnes  
 Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> – Scott Pursley  
 Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> – Doug Nunnery  
 Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> – Gunner Stitz  
 Oct 12<sup>th</sup> – Bob Howard  
 Oct 13<sup>th</sup> – Dexter Bates  
 Oct 14<sup>th</sup> – Don Booker  
 Oct 15<sup>th</sup> – Jim Mason  
 Oct 17<sup>th</sup> – Kenneth Brenton  
 Oct 18<sup>th</sup> – Mark Taylor  
 Oct 20<sup>th</sup> – John Cameron  
 Oct 23<sup>rd</sup> – David Sullivan  
 Oct 24<sup>th</sup> – Nathan Hall  
 Oct 25<sup>th</sup> – Miles Williams  
 Oct 27<sup>th</sup> – Navy Day  
 Oct 29<sup>th</sup> – Forest Harrell

**Happy Birthday!**

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

## Treasures Report: Sept 2009

<b>BEGINNING BAL.:</b>	<b>\$ 4373.96</b>
<b>DEPOSITS:</b>	
Dues Collected	620.00
<b>TOTAL DEPOSITS:</b>	<b>\$ 620.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>	
Dues Paid to National	70.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>	<b>\$ 70.00</b>
<b>ENDING BALANCE:</b>	<b>\$ 4923.96</b>
<b>CHARITYS</b>	
<b>Boat 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>\$ 5049.33</b>
Interest Earned	
<b>TOTAL IN BASE FUNDS =</b>	<b>\$13245.18</b>

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

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

## Submarine Museum Trivia

Last Month: Western-most museum submarine?

A: USS Bowfin

Q: **Northern-most museum submarine?** (answer will be posted in next issue)

**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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